



Issue #10 January 2015

# LATEST NEWS

## From Fenland's Youth District Council

Our first meeting of 2015 took place at Fenland Hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> January and it was an extremely busy and productive start to the New Year! One group activity, two consultations and five grant applications later, as well as our usual agenda items, and it's no wonder we didn't have time for our YDC debate! On the positive side...it just gives us longer to research the topic for the next meeting!

## Corporate plan anyone?

We were pleased to welcome back Policy & Communications Officer Charlotte Boast for the now annual corporate plan group activity. Lottie wanted to know which services are most important to young people in Fenland and then which services should be given priority when budget cuts have to be made. Despite splitting into two groups, the answers were remarkably similar with both groups putting keeping people safe and helping vulnerable residents as their priorities. They also explained that they thought their priorities would probably be different as they got older and their personal circumstances changed.



## Our opinions do matter!



The Child Poverty Strategy '*Breaking the Cycle 2014-2017*' was the topic of conversation with Lisa Faulkner (CCC) and Dan Horn (FDC). Lisa and Dan lead a discussion around the experiences of young people in Fenland, and how we could possibly help challenge some of issues raised. We concluded that we would concentrate on three areas; lessons on personal financial management, the availability of homework for those with no internet access and late buses after normal school hours. We will be writing to each of the secondary schools in Fenland asking for their feedback on these topics as part of our consultation procedure for the strategy. Obviously we will keep you all informed as to progress.

We were also consulted on the best way to tackle young people smoking and what approach would be the most effective. Alisa Lyons from CAMQUIT explained that they were keen to hear our thoughts and ideas on how best to encourage young people of school age to stop smoking, and who would be best placed to make students aware of the dangers and how to get help to quit. Alisa took on board our suggestions and will let us know how the project progresses.

# YDC Grants 2014/15

We were also delighted to have five grant applications to assess from a range of organisations. They were:

**Centre 33** – to set up a drop-in-service for 13-25 year olds to compliment their new counselling service in and a round Wisbech. It would enable young people to access help, support and guidance immediately meaning they would feel less overwhelmed and more able to cope. **YDC agreed the full amount of £854.92**

**sexYOUality** – to develop a youth service for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender (LGBT) in Fenland. It would be a monthly drop in service where young people can gain 1-2-1 support with clear referral pathways for those in need of additional support. This would mean that the young people would feel less isolated and increase their confidence. **YDC agreed the full amount of £981.54**

**Waterlees Youth Forum** – to pay for a community event which will be organised and delivered by the members of the forum. The aim will be to bring together all young people to build friendships and to positively contribute to the local community. **YDC agreed £700 (application submitted for £1000) with the recommendation that the forum members organise some fundraising events to cover the remaining amount**

**Transition Club** – to cover the transition issues faced by year 6 students going into year 7 at Neale Wade Academy in September. Some of the activities will be run by the young people who attended the club last summer and will offer some basic life skills and activity based workshops. **YDC agreed to the full amount of £800**

**Wisbech Interfaith Forum** – to pay for a group of young people to meet the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Rowan Williams when he attends the forum's AGM. The young people will participate in both a question and answer session and also a group discussion with the aim of improving relations between different religions and faiths within our communities. **YDC agreed to the full amount of £500**

***PLEASE NOTE: there is still funding available for this financial year. Applications must be received by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015***

If you know, or are a member of, a youth group which could benefit from a YDC grant please ask them to contact Sharon Dove on 01354 654321 or email at [sdove@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:sdove@fenland.gov.uk) There is also information available on the website, details of which are given at the bottom of the page.

## Any other business

The proposal to reduce the YDC grant to £7500 will be discussed at the Council's Cabinet meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January. The YDC response has been included in the papers submitted, and we will be informed once a final decision has been made.

## Cycle safety project

As part of our cycle safety project we have designed a range of posters on the topic which we are hoping will be displayed in schools, youth clubs, villages etc. We hope the posters will encourage young people to take up cycling as a form of exercise whilst encouraging them to keep safe when out and about. If you see any of the posters, please feel free to let us know what you think

**and finally..** the YDC are always keen to welcome new members. If you think you might be interested in joining the YDC, please speak to your school liaison who can help you make the necessary arrangements or contact Sharon on the number below. We always try to make our meetings interesting, informative and interactive and we value everyone's opinions.



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Fenland-Youth-District-Council>



: [ydc@fenland.gov.uk](mailto:ydc@fenland.gov.uk)



: 01354 654321



: <http://www.fenland.gov.uk/article/9085/Youth-District-Council>